P. Hochuth, Rodf

REVIEW OF PLAY "GUERRILLAS" BY RALPH HOCHUTH

JOSEPH BENTI: The controversy over German playwright Ralph Hochuth has unveiled his newest play "Guerrillas." Hochuth whose previous targets were Pope Pious XII and Winston Churchill has reached into American political life for the theme of his newest work. John Sheahan has a report from Stuttgart, Germany. (FILM CLIP)

JOHN SHEAHAN: This is the atomic submarine with which a United States Senator intends to threaten Washington, take over the government and start the guerrilla war in America. That's Ralph Hochuth's recommendation in his new play called "Guerrillas" for how democracy might finally be introduced in the United States.

In Hochuth's view, America is ruled by an Oligarchy of 200 very wealthy families who own 200 million people. His imaginary senator, Republican David Nicholson, wants to free them by pulling off a coup detat and sending the rich into exile for ten years while their property is redistributed. The good senator however is in cahoots with Che Guavero and the senator's troops of Negro and white city guerrillas are not above a little murder themselves on the way toward establishing a workers' party in America. And Hochuth is not above a little innuendo on his way toward producing sure fire controversial plays.

In his first, "The Deputy", he made Pope Pious XII responsible for the Nazi murder of 6 million Jews. In his play "Soldiers" he made Winston Churchill an accomplice in murder. And in his new piece, "Guerrillas", his players find it a remarkable coincidence that Richard Nixon was in Dallas one day before President Kennedy was assassinated.

He goes on to make it plausible that a senator's wife could be kidnapped and murdered by the CIA.

Hochuth is a clever opinion maker. He's a voracious editor who bombards the audience with years' of newspaper clippings